be preferable to a drain on search foreign exchange resources.

Expansion of AIR Network

2259. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to double the number of Radio Stations by the end of the Seventh Five Year Plan period;

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal to set up Radio Stations in the Madhya Pradesh;

(c) if so, what are the names of the places identified for the purpose; and

(d) to what extent the coverage is likely to be increased ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (PROF. K. K. TEWARY): (a) On completion of VIIth Five Year Plan there will be 205 Radio Stations as against the present number of 97.

(b) and (c). Ten new Radio Stations are being set up in Madhya Pradesh under the approved 7th Plan. These are Shahdol, Shivpuri, Chindwara, Bilaspur, Balaghat, Guna, Raigarh Khandwa Betul and Sagar.

(d) On completion of 7th Plan Schemes coverage in Madhya Pradesh would improve to 97 per cent by population and 95 per cent by area as against existing 91 percent and 88 per cent respectively.

Service conditions of DRDA employees

2260. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that inspite of setting up of District Rural Development Agencies more than 20,000 directly recruited and lakhs engaged in allied programmes like TRYSEM, DWCRA and RLEGP etc., have been kept temporary for the last 19 years;

(b) whether the staff recruited in these DRDA are given service benefits like other Government employees; if not, the reason therefor; and

(c) whether any notice have been served by the All India DRDA Employees Union for their demands, if so, what action Government has taken to meet their demands?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) and (b). DRDAs were established all over the country after 2nd October 1980, when IRDP was extended throughout the country.

The DRDAs are registered societies functioning under the administrative control of the State Governments. While service conditions of the DRDA staff vary from State to State, some service benefits like scooter/motorcycle advance and CPF are available to all DRDA employees. The recruitment rules and other service conditions of the staff are to be laid down by the concerned State Governments.

(c) The All India DRDA Employees Union have sent copies of their memorandum of demands to the Government of India and their representatives have also met the Minister of State for Rural Development and Secretary, Department of Rural Development. As the demands of DRDA employees pertain to action to be taken by the State Governments, the Government of India have once again drawn the attention of State Governments to the need for solving the service problems of employees in a sympathetic manner. The All India DRDA Employees Union has been kept informed of the action taken.